

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 13259 231039Z

53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /118 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4973

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13259

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: DELTA BORDER SITUATION RELATIVELY QUIET

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG JULY 21
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE CAN THO 0590

1. SUMMARY. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE 44TH SPECIAL TACTICAL
ZONE (STZ) CONTINUES TO CENTER ON ARVN EFFORTS TO INTERDICT
INFILTRATION ROUTE 1-C AND THE STRUGGLE TO CONTROL GIAI MOUNTAIN.
THE LATTER SEEMS LARGELY THE RESULT OF ARVN RATHER THAN NVA
INITIATIVE. APART FROM THESE ACTIVITIES, THE ENTIRE
CAMBODIAN BORDER REGION IN CHAU DOC AND KIEN PHONG PROVINCES
SEEMS QUIET. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MR IV NATIONAL POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH HAVE SET UP A
FORWARD COMMAND POST IN THE WESTERN PART OF TINH BIEN DISTRICT
AND ARE NOW RUNNING COMBINED POLICE OPERATIONS UTILIZING SPECIAL
RECONNAISSANCE GROUP (SRG) UNITS (THE OLD PRU). THEY MADE
THEIR FIRST CONTACT JULY 12 WHEN THEY AMBUSHED A SQUAD OF
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 13259 231039Z

INFILTRATORS ON THE CAMBODIAN BORDER. THE 94TH RANGER BATTALION

HAS SINCE MID-JULY RUN A NUMBER OF OPERATIONS (PROBABLY AIR MOBILE) INTO THE TRAM FOREST IN KIEN LUONG DISTRICT OF KIEN GIANG PROVINCE. ON TWO OCCASIONS THEY HAVE DISCOVERED AMMUNITION STORAGE POINTS. ON A THIRD, ON JULY 11, THEY KILLED THREE NVA.

3. IN THE GIAI MOUNTAIN AREA, TRI TON DISTRICT, CHAU DOC PROVINCE, THE LOW LEVEL STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE 7TH RANGER GROUP AND THE 101-D NVA REGIMENT CONTINUES. THE NVA HAS MORTARED RANGER OUTPOSTS REPEATEDLY. THE RANGERS, IN TURN, ARE FIRING ARTILLERY UP THE MOUNTAIN IN INCREASINGLY LARGE AMOUNTS. DURING THE WEEK JULY 9-15, ARTILLERY UNITS SUPPORTING THE 7TH RANGERS FIRED OVER 1200 ROUNDS AT NVA POSITIONS. THE NVA STILL HOLD THE TOP OF THE WESTERN PEAK BUT THE RANGERS HAVE SLOWLY MOVED UP THE WEST SLOPE AND ARE NOW REPORTEDLY HOLDING A NUMBER OF THE CAVE COMPLEXES.

4. THE CONGEN VISITED THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS AREA JULY 19, GOING BY JEEP FROM TRI TON VIA TUONG MOUNTAIN AND TINH BIEN DISTRICT TOWN TO CHAU DOC. THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE TINH BIEN BORDER OUTPOST SAID HE HAD BEEN THERE THREE WEEKS AND THERE HAD BEEN NO SHELLING DURING THAT TIME.

5. AT HONG NGU, THE DISTRICT CHIEF AND 9TH ARVN DIV DEPUTY COMMANDER COL NGUYEN DINH VINH TOLD THE CONGEN JULY 20 THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO INCIDENTS IN HONG NGU DISTRICT SINCE A FEW MORTAR ROUNDS FELL ABOUT TWO HOURS AFTER CEASEFIRE II WENT INTO EFFECT. HOWEVER, COL VINH DID ADVISE AGAINST FLYING OVER A SMALL AREA ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG MAIN CHANNEL IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE CAMBODIAN BORDER.

6. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN NO HEAVY ACTIVITY ALONG THE DELTA'S CAMBODIAN BORDER SINCE THE NVA PUSH ON HONG NGU AND THE SHELLING OF TAN CHAU DISTRICT TOWNS IN MARCH AND APRIL. THE VC/NVA IN THE CHAU DOC AREA SEEM AT THE MOMENT TO BE CONCENTRATING ON THE INFILTRATION OF SOME NVA SOLDIERS (MOST COME ACROSS THE BORDER FURTHER SOUTH THROUGH KIEN GIANG PROVINCE) AND ON KEEPING THE NVA 101-D REGIMENT IN EXISTENCE. MR IV COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN VINH NGHI TOLD A VISITOR JULY 19 THAT THE THREAT ALONG THE BORDER SEEMS TO HAVE FADED, AND HE IS NOW

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PAGE 03 SAIGON 13259 231039Z

ABLE TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO PLACES LIKE CHUONG THIEN. SIGNED
LEHMANN UNQUOTE
MARTIN

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